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Vision

Safer Communities Through Successful Youth

Mission Statement

ADJC enhances public protection by assisting in the changing of delinquent thinking and behaviors of juvenile offenders committed to the Department

ADJC's Vocational Education Program: Engaging Youth to Learn Practical Skills

In 2004, Director Michael Branham challenged the ADJC School Superintendent, Dr. Judith Lanphar, to develop and implement a vocational education program to address the needs of youth. Data collected by the Education Division for the past two years shows the following percentages of students identified as Special Education: 40% in 2004 and 36% in 2005. The remaining student population is transient (i.e. dropped out of school, highly mobile). Despite the high percentage of Special Education and transient students, the ADJC Research and Development Division has identified that 65% of youth aspire to complete high school and/or college (ADJC Research & Development Youth Fact Sheet 2nd Quarter 2005). ADJC youth do have a desire to learn and succeed.

The Education Division conducted an informal student interest survey during July 2004 revealing high student interest in the following vocational areas: Automotive, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, and Construction Trades. Under the leadership of Dr. Patricia Moreno, Federal/Vocational Workforce Program Administrator, and the schools principals, each secure care facility has a Vocational Education Program addressing both vocational and academic needs of students. All teachers in vocational programs are certified through the Arizona Department of Education. Additionally, students are selected according to a uniform set of criteria developed by ADJC school administrators.

State and federal grants provided funding to purchase a variety of vocational workstations for Adobe Mountain School (AMS), Catalina Mountain School (CMS), Eagle Point School (EPS), in: Plumbing, Electrical, Residential Wiring, Automotive, Construction Measurement, and Refrigeration (just to name a few). Students learn through "hands on" experience, work in teams, and obtain a basic understanding of reading and math skills. Moreover, students see the relevance in learning academic contents as they apply these skills in vocational areas.

Black Canyon School (BCS), the female facility, is offering a Culinary Arts Program in partnership with Rio Salado College. This six month program closely parallels the model used at the Perryville female adult facility consisting of three components: 1) six week classroom instruction; 2) four week lab (cooking in a commercial kitchen; and 3) career planning (i.e. resumes, interviewing skills). The Independence building is currently being renovated to house the commercial kitchen, culinary classroom, computer refurbishing lab, and vocational workstation classroom. ADJC will continue to expand vocational class offerings and is developing a Workforce Development component to place youth in jobs upon release from secure care and re-entry to the community.



Profiles of Successful Youth

Ernie was released from secure care in April 2005 and since his release back to Yuma, he has completed his community service. Through a grant he is attending school full time at AZ Western College. Youth Ernie has also learned to balance a job by working at an Albertsons Grocery Store. Ernie continues to comply with the terms of his parole.

Silvia was released from Black Canyon School in April 2005. Also from Yuma County, Silvia quickly found volunteer work with the Yuma Humane Society. She contributed to 80 hours of her time working with a local veterinarian, assisting staff with the daily duties of caring for the animals at the shelter. Silvia obtained her GED while in secure care and is now taking classes at AZ Western College. She continues to comply with her terms of parole.

What's New at ADJC

◆ADJC's Community Corrections Work Force Team has designed and implemented the first ever Youth Wild Land Fire Program. The program is an extension of the agency's Youth Work Program and is a partnership with the State Land Department. ADJC staff will train participants in the areas of CPR, Basic First Aid, and interventions to control negative behavior. State Land Department officials will teach safety classes and fire camp overview. Once trained, ADJC youth will work in supply units, food service, and set up base camps for "Hot Shot" fire crews. ADJC youth will be stationed on safe campgrounds approximately 20 miles from the actual fire. During the course of their assignments, youth will be paid an hourly salary of \$9.96 and will have the opportunity for advancement with the State Land Department. The first training was held on July 16-17 with nine ADJC staff and 15 youth that qualified. On August 21, the Wild Land Crew received their first call-out to Mt. Graham, in the Coronado National Forest. Seven ADJC youth and three staff participated in this call out.

◆Kellie Warren, ADJC's Clinical Director recently introduced to the agency the new Clinical Leadership Team that is responsible for agency's psychological and psychiatric services. For the first time, the agency has seven Psychologists in secure care (3 Psychologists at AMS, 2 Psychologists at BCS, and one Psychologist each at CMS and EPS). The facility Psychologists are the clinical authority at each secure care facility and they provide clinical supervision to the Mental Health Team Coordinators.

◆ADJC Communications Unit had the pleasure of recently working with ABC News "Primetime Live" on a film project that included several youth from ADJC. The program, which aired on August 4, 2005, was filmed over a period of five months and featured several youth in secure care. Overall, the feature of the story was quite positive, showing the mainstream public the positive side to juvenile corrections as well as the devastating lives that many of our youth have to deal with (lack of family support, substance abuse, domestic violence). To see a copy of the program, please contact Marcella Crane at (602) 364.1340.

Director's Corner

ADJC received its second report from the consultants hired to assess the Department's compliance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and the State of Arizona. The agency achieved improvements in key areas in all three facilities (AMS, BCS, and CMS). The number of areas that received a substantial compliance rating improved from 22 in the first monitoring report to 64 in the second report. The 'substantial compliance' rating is the highest rating given by the consultants. Highlights of the progress reported include in the areas of Education Services, Youth Grievances, Medical Services, Quality Assurance, and Inspections and Investigations. I remain encouraged about the work that has been done and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our personnel. The entire report can be reviewed on the ADJC's public website at www.azdj.gov

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact my office at 602-542-4302 or reach me via e-mail at mbranham@azdj.gov.